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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **AGRE-  
SEARCH LIMITED** [NZ/NZ]; Private Bag 3123, Hamil-  
ton, 5th Floor Tower Block, Ruakura Research Centre, East  
Street (NZ).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **COLLINS, Desmond,  
Michael** [NZ/NZ]; 25 Stephen Street, 6007 Upper Hutt  
(NZ).

(74) Agent: **ALLEN, John, D.**; Private Bag 11907, Level 9,  
Ellerslie Tower, 60B Cawley Street, Ellerslie, 1005 Auck-  
land (NZ).

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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO A METHOD OF DNA TESTING FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MYCOBACTERIUM  
PARATUBERCULOSIS STRAINS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the discovery of a DNA sequence in sheep types of *M. paratuberculosis* that differs from the homologous sequence in cattle types of *M. paratuberculosis*. The invention also provides a nucleic acid amplification technique based on these differences that can be used to distinguish strains of the cattle type from strains of both the sheep types of *M. paratuberculosis*. The invention also relates to use of these sequences in a nucleic acid amplification technique to distinguish all strains of *M. paratuberculosis* from other strains of the MAI complex and from strains of the *M. tuberculosis* complex.

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